

1 Peter 4:1 "Christ suffered for us, thereby leaving us an example." Thus when you see how he prays, fasts, helps people, and shows them love, so also you should do, both for yourself and for your neighbor. However this is the smallest part of the gospel, on the basis of which it cannot yet even be called gospel. For on this level Christ is of no more help to you than some other saint. His life remains his own and does not as yet contribute anything to you. In short this mode [of understanding Christ simply as an example] does not make Christians but only hypocrites. You must grasp Christ at a much higher level.... The chief article and foundation of the gospel is that before you take Christ as an example, you accept and recognize him as a gift, as a present that God has given you and that is your own.... Now when you have Christ as the foundation and chief blessing of your salvation, then the other part follows; that you take him as your example, giving yourself in service to your neighbor just as you see that Christ has given himself for you.... Therefore make note of this, that Christ as a gift nourishes your faith and makes you a Christian. But Christ as an example exercises your works. These do not make you a Christian. Actually they come forth from you because you have already become a Christian.^3

The Lord Jesus Christ is presented in Scripture as an example in His life as well as in His death. This essay is concerned only with the latter. The following chart summarizes the findings of an exegetical study of the NT passages which contain an exemplary view of the work of Christ.

Passage	Christ's death an example of:
1 Mark 8:31-37 (Matt 16:21-26) (Luke 9:22-25)	Self-denial, willingness to lose one's life in following Christ
2 Mark 10:42-45 (Matt 20:25-28)	Servant-leadership, service
3 John 15:9-17	Love for other Christians
4 Rom 15:1-3	Pleasing others
5 2 Cor 8:9 2 Cor 9:15	Giving
6 Eph 5:1-2 Eph 5:25	Love for others Love of Husbands for wives
7 Phil 2:1-11	Humility and obedience
8 Heb 12:1-3	Endurance
9 1 Pet 2:21-25	Suffering injustice patiently
10 1 John 3:16-18 1 John 4:9-11	Sacrificial love for other Christians Love for other Christians